

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a search framework to provide ~~providing~~ search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, said method comprising the search framework:
 - registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
 - registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
 - detecting a request to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;
 - providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method; and
 - responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding search method.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the search framework:
 - registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;
 - registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider; and
 - where said step of responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method comprises:
 - receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider; and

providing said ~~first and said second~~ received search result to the
web server in a ubiquitous format results.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said method comprises:
reading search provider data regarding said first search provider and
said second search provider from a configuration file.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, where said method is
implemented in conjunction with a web server, and where said configuration file is a
web.config file.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for a search framework to provide
~~providing~~ search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, said
method comprising the search framework:

registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of
said at least two search providers;

registering a second search method for performing searches on a
second of said at least two search providers;

detecting a request to the web server for a search on said first search
provider and said second search provider;

providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing
said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method; and

responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search
method by performing said search on the first search provider utilizing said first search
method and on the second search provider utilizing said second search method.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the
search framework:

registering a first response format for receiving search results from said
first search provider;

registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider; and

where said step of responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method comprises:

receiving a first search result from the first search provider in said first response format ~~from~~ of said first search provider;

receiving a second search result from the second search provider in said second response format ~~from~~ of said second search provider; and

providing said first and said second search results to the web server in a ubiquitous format.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, where said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises:

returning said first and said second search results in a unified format.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, where said step of detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider comprises receiving response format data, and where said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises:

returning said first and said second search results according to said response format data.

9-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer system for a search framework to provide providing search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, said system comprising as the search framework:

registration module for registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;

search request detection module for detecting a request to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among ~~on~~ said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;

ubiquitous search method provision module for providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method ~~and said second search method;~~ and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding ~~first search method and said second search method.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A computer system for a search framework to provide ~~providing~~ search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, said system comprising as the framework:

registration module for registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;

search request detection module for detecting a request to the web server for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;

ubiquitous search method provision module for providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the first search provider utilizing said first search method and on the second search provider utilizing said second search method.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, where said registration module further registers a first response format for receiving search results from said first

search provider and registers a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider; and

where ubiquitous search method response module receives a first search result from the first search provider in said first response format ~~from~~ of said first search provider; receives a second search result from the second search provider in said second response format ~~from~~ of said second search provider; and provides said first and said second search results to the web server in a ubiquitous format.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, where said first and said second search results are provided in a unified format.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, where said search request detection module receives response format data, and where said first and said second search results are provided according to said response format data.

17. (Canceled)